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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/927,391	08/13/2001	Tetsuya Ohba	503.40451X00	5938
20457	7590	12/17/2003	EXAMINER	
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP 1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET SUITE 1800 ARLINGTON, VA 22209-9889			WILLIAMS, KEVIN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/927,391

Applicant(s)

OHBA ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin D. Williams

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 10-13 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 10, line 9, "the output" lacks proper antecedent basis.

In claim 10, line 23, it seems that "rotation" should be --rotational--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greiner (US 3,561,654) in view of Kondo (US 5,947,617) and Reyner (US 6,052,144).

Greiner teaches a web printer as claimed and comprising infeed rollers 3 for holding from both sides and carrying the web delivered from a supply unit, a dancer roller 5 which is provided between said infeed rollers and an image forming means and applies variable tension on the web according to a position thereof, infeed roller control means (col. 4, lines 10-35) which stabilizes said dancer roller at a desired position, image forming means 6,7 provided at an after stage of said dancer roller, fixing means 8 which is provided at an after stage of said image forming means and fixes the image on the web, outfeed rollers 9 which are provided at an after stage of said fixing means and discharges the web outside the web printer, web feed rate detection means 19 provided

at a fore stage of said image forming means, outfeed roller control means (13;col. 4, lines 37-57) which control the rotation speed of said outfeed rollers according to the output of said web feed rate detection means (col. 4, lines 37-57), a plurality of image forming portions (both cylinders touching the web from opposite sides in each unit 6,7) arranged on both sides of a web surface along a web feed route, and said plurality of image forming portions provided on one side of the web surface and said plurality of image forming portions provided on an other side of the web surface are arranged at alternately different height levels (cylinder touching web from bottom and cylinders touching webs from top in units 6,7).

Greiner does not teach a buffer means for adjusting a traveling position of a web under a slack status, detection means for detecting the traveling position in a width direction of the web, and skew correction means for adjusting the traveling position in the width direction of the web according to the output from said detection means.

Kondo teaches a detection means 17a,17b for detecting the traveling position in a width direction of a web, and skew correction means 24a,24b,26a,26b for adjusting the traveling position in the width direction of the web according to the output from said detection means.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Greiner to have the skew correction means provided between the dancer roller and the image forming means and the detection means as taught by Kondo, in order to ensure that the web is precisely aligned before printing, so that the printed image is accurately positioned where intended.

Reyner teaches a buffer means 210 for adjusting a traveling position of a web under a slack status for preventing rupture in the web from sudden increases and decreases in web speed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to additionally modify Greiner to have the buffer means as taught by Reyner, in order to preventing rupture in the web from sudden increases and decreases in web speed as taught by Reyner.

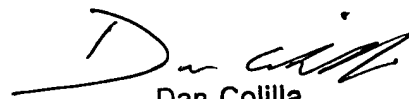
Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin D. Williams whose telephone number is (703) 305-3036. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

KDW
December 9, 2003


Dan Colilla
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854